

REMARKS

Applicant notes the indicated allowability over the prior art of Claims 41-62 and 66.

Claims 41, 43, 56, and 57 are objected to for various informalities. The claims have been amended as appropriate. With respect to the rejection of Claims 41 and 56 as omitting structural relationships between the elements, Applicant has amended the claims to specify that the claimed optical components are “carried by said support structure” and notes that the structural relationship between the remaining elements is functionally specified, e.g., the lamp directs light into the cavity and the optical components influence the beam path of the light output from the lamp. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to these claims is solicited.

Claims 44, 45, 51, and 64-66 stand rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is solicited.

Applicant notes that Claims 44, 45, and 51 stand rejected as indefinite, and Claims 41, 43, and 57 are objected to for claiming inappropriate Markush groups. Applicant is not aware of any requirement that claiming elements in the alternative must be done in Markush groups. Applicant notes that the examiner’s proffered Markush grouping is improper in that the group of elements is recited in the alternative.

Claim 63 stands rejected under Section 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,704,703 to Yamada et al. The examiner asserts that Yamada discloses a method of providing a light permeable component (element 87 in Fig. 1), and providing a carrier plate (element 86 in Fig. 1). Element 86 in Yamada is disclosed as a linear prism, i.e. an element having a light-refractive structure. Element 87 in Yamada is carried by element 86, forms the outermost element of the

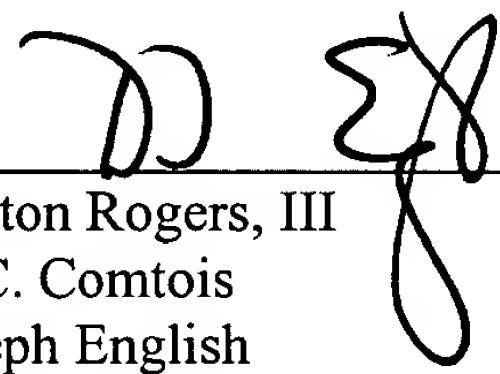
light output device, and is disclosed as a transparent diffusion sheet, i.e., an element having no light-refractive structure.

Claim 63 has been amended to specify that the carrier plate includes “no light-refractive structure” and “forms the outermost element of the light output device”. Thus Yamada does not disclose or suggest a method for manufacturing a light unit as claimed in amended Claim 63. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Consideration and allowance of new Claims 67-70 is solicited. No new matter has been added.

A further and favorable action and allowance of all claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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